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## MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS REVIEW

A MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER SERVING THE MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS UNITS OF IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI AND NEBRASKA

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### REGION VII



### Shawnee County MRC Participates in Operation Vaccination

Last month, the Shawnee County MRC participated in "Operation Vaccination," a mass vaccination exercise. Tisha Sinclair, Shawnee County MRC Coordinator, provided the following account of the exercise:

On October 19, 2005, the Shawnee County Health Agency held an exercise in mass vaccination called "Operation Vaccination." 34 MRC volunteers assisted in this exercise, helping in areas such as Triage, Registration, POD Flow, POD Flow Educator, Forms Review and Exit Station. It was good hands-on emergency training for volunteers, and a test of our emergency mass dispensing process. The public came to get their flu shot and participate in the exercise.

The exercise was a great success! Operations ran smoothly and many high-risk people were vaccinated

from the flu. The public submitted an evaluation of their experience and 90-99% rated the exercise as Good to Excellent! MRC volunteers reported excellent comments from the public, including the quickness and efficiency of the POD and the three locations to choose from.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make Operation Vaccination a success! Those who participated are also better prepared for future emergencies! Shawnee County MRC volunteers are now helping with regular flu shot clinics at the Shawnee County Health Agency to assist more people in being protected from the flu.



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## Exercise Fast Facts:

- 3 POD locations – Gage, Garfield, Salvation Army
- Operations held simultaneously from 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm
- 1,221 flu doses given; community protected from influenza
- 270 workers were present to run operations, including Shawnee County Health Agency staff, MRC volunteers, law enforcement personnel, CERT volunteers, etc.



For more information on this exercise, contact Tisha Sinclair, Shawnee County MRC Coordinator, at (785) 368-2736 or [tisha.sinclair@co.shawnee.ks.us](mailto:tisha.sinclair@co.shawnee.ks.us). You may also visit the Shawnee County MRC website at [www.co.shawnee.ks.us/HA/MRC/Events.shtm](http://www.co.shawnee.ks.us/HA/MRC/Events.shtm).

## Upcoming Events and Training

**Region VII MRC Conference.** December 2, 2005 in Overland Park, KS. For more information, contact Gary Brown, Regional MRC Coordinator, at (816) 426-2829 or [gbrown2@osophs.dhhs.gov](mailto:gbrown2@osophs.dhhs.gov).

**American Public Health Association (APHA) 133rd Annual Meeting and Exposition.** December 10-14, 2005 in Philadelphia, PA. For more information, see the APHA website at [http://www.apha.org/meetings/new\\_orleans\\_update.htm](http://www.apha.org/meetings/new_orleans_update.htm).

**2005 National Summit on Emergency Response and Preparedness for Schools.** December 15-16, 2005 in Arlington, VA. Sponsored by the Performance Institute. For more information, visit the conference website at <http://www.performanceweb.org/Centers/Education/Events/S209/S209.htm>.

**Topics in Public Health Preparedness Workshops.** January 19-20, 2006 in Costa Mesa, CA. Sponsored by the UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters. Four workshops in the Public Health Preparedness Series:

- Conducting a Hazard Risk Assessment
- Risk Communication
- Writing Incident Action Plans
- Keeping Your Workforce

For more information, visit <http://www.cphd.ucla.edu/>.

**27<sup>th</sup> Annual International Disaster Management Conference.** February 9-12, 2006 in Orlando, FL. Sponsored by the Emergency Medicine Learning and Resource Center. For more information, visit the conference website at <http://www.emlrc.org/disaster2006.htm>.

**2006 Local, State and Federal Public Health Preparedness Summit.** February 21-24, 2006 in Washington, D.C. Sponsored by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). For more information, visit the conference website at <http://www.naccho.org/phprep06/>.

**National Emergency Responder Credentialing System Being Developed**

FEMA's National Incident Management System (NIMS) website contains an October 26, 2005 fact sheet on the National Emergency Responder Credentialing System. The fact sheet presents the following information on this system from the NIMS Integration Center:



*The development of a national credentialing system is a fundamental component of NIMS. The NIMS states that "credentialing involves providing documentation that can authenticate and verify the certification and identity of designated incident managers and emergency responders" to ensure that response personnel "possess a minimum common level of training, currency, experience, physical and medical fitness, and capability" for the respective role that they are tasked to fill.*

*The NIMS Integration Center (NIC) initiated development of a national credentialing system in FY 2005 to enhance the ability of Federal, State, Tribal, and local jurisdictions to identify and dispatch appropriately qualified emergency responders from other jurisdictions when needed.*

*A national credentialing system ensures that personnel resources requested to assist another jurisdiction in a response are adequately trained and skilled. A national system to verify the identity and qualifications of emergency responders will not provide automatic access to an incident site. This system can serve to prevent unauthorized (self-dispatched or unqualified personnel) access to an incident site.*

*The NIC will work with existing State, Territory, or discipline-specific credentialing bodies toward national recognition for multi-jurisdictional response under mutual aid agreements.*

*The main components of a proposed credentialing system are: eligible volunteers; certifications and qualifications standards; credentialing organizations; credentialing information that can easily identify personnel and verify certifications, training, and licenses; and a record-keeping system.*

*To support this credentialing initiative, the NIC is using working groups to identify job titles that should be credentialed as well as the minimum qualification, certification, training, education, licensing, and physical fitness requirements for each position. Working groups will represent the following disciplines: Incident Management, Emergency Medical Services, Fire/HazMat, Law Enforcement, Medical and Public Health, Public Works, and Search and Rescue.*

*Currently active groups include the Incident Management, Emergency Medical Services, Fire/HazMat, Public Works, and Search & Rescue working groups. The NIC is finalizing working group rosters for the remaining disciplines.*

*For more information on the National Emergency Responder Credentialing System, visit the NIMS Integration Center website at [www.fema.gov/nims](http://www.fema.gov/nims). A FAQ sheet on the system is available at [http://www.fema.gov/pdf/nims/credent\\_faq.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/pdf/nims/credent_faq.pdf).*

## New Sedgwick County MRC Coordinator



The Sedgwick County Health Department has hired Ellen Bayhille-Hunter as their new MRC Community Liaison. Ellen was born and raised in central Oklahoma and grew up on a farm. Prior

to her healthcare career, Ellen served as a dispatcher and police officer in Oklahoma. She also has several years of experience as an emergency room technician and phlebotomist. After receiving her LPN in 2003, Ellen worked in a variety of hospital settings, including an emergency room, medical surgical floor and post-partum area.

In August 2003, Ellen moved to Kansas and accepted a position with the Sedgwick County Health Department as an immunization nurse and "float" nurse. While at the Sedgwick County Health Department, she began volunteering with the local MRC unit. For the last year, Ellen has been practicing geriatric care at a long-term care and rehabilitation facility. She is married and has two teenage daughters.

Please welcome Ellen to the MRC program by calling her at (316) 660-7344 or by sending her an e-mail at [lhunter@sedgwick.gov](mailto:lhunter@sedgwick.gov).

## JEFFERSON COUNTY MRC IS NEWEST IN REGION

On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, the MRC National Program Office officially recognized the Jefferson County, KS MRC. This MRC unit is the sixth in Kansas and the 15<sup>th</sup> in Region VII. The Jefferson County MRC is sponsored by the Jefferson County Health Department in Oskaloosa, the county seat. The Jefferson County MRC was established to assist Jefferson County in emergencies and non-emergency medical events, such as the Cancer Society Relay for Life and school-based health screenings. Jane Shirley is the coordinator and point of contact for the unit. She may be contacted at (785) 863-2447 or [jshirley@jfcountryks.com](mailto:jshirley@jfcountryks.com). Please contact Jane and welcome the Jefferson County MRC!